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March 23, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

General

A Madison County employee has been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19/coronavirus. The employee has not presented symptoms of the disease and is currently in quarantine per guidance provided by medical professionals.

Madison County continues to monitor and respond to the coronavirus pandemic crisis. The Virginia Department of Health has provided guidance on the County's response. The County suggests that the Virginia Department of Health's web site (link below) is the key source of current and factual information on this problem that expected to be with us for a few months.

Our local efforts are aligned with the national strategy that is focused on minimizing the spread of the disease by educating all individuals and implementing strategies to reduce the potential for exposure through what are by now well-known tactics: everyone should practice "social distancing" by avoiding close contact with other people and good hygiene such as hand washing.

As with every crisis in our community, a key to our success in dealing with the current situation is for Madison residents to look out for one another and continuing our strong tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

Meeting Schedules

By order of Chairman Clay Jackson, the scheduled March 24 meeting of the Madison County Board of Supervisors has been cancelled and business that would have been done during that session postponed to a later time yet to be determined.

By order of Chairman Clay Jackson, and pursuant to the Board's policy and requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia, this is to officially notify the public that the Madison County Board of Supervisors will meet at 2:00 PM on March 26, 2020 as previously scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the FY21 budget and to conduct any other business that may properly come before the Board. To maintain appropriate social distances, the session will be held in the Board Auditorium at 414 N. Main Street in the Town of Madison. Although it is every Madison resident's right to attend Board meetings, the County advises that seating available for this session will be limited.

Census

By now all Madison County households should have received the official paper version and the online and call in directions for the 2020 Census Questionnaire. It is important for many reasons that all Madison County residents are counted, so please fill and return the paper forms or respond online via my2020census.gov. If you have questions, please call 1-844-330-1020.

For additional information, see

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/
- A list of **Items of Note re Madison County's Effort to Combat the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic** is attached

Information on Madison County can be found at www.madisonco.virginia.gov. For additional information, please contact Madison County Administrator Jack Hobbs at jhobbs@madisonco.virginia.gov.

Items of Note re Madison County's Effort to Combat the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic

As of March 23, 2020

Information

- In accordance with Virginia Department of Health recommendations, all individuals are encouraged to be calm, wash their hands and maintain an appropriate separation distance from other individuals. Information about the pandemic can be found [here](#), and inquiries about the pandemic are referred to the health department's hotline at 877-ASK-VDH3.
- Current emergency management information can be found on the County's web site [here](#). Emergency declarations by local, state and federal governments and other documents can be found [here](#).

Changes in County Operations

- Feeding programs for kids (schools) and elderly/adults (MESA) have been organized. The faith community has been asked to address pediatric issues (diapers, formula, etc.)
- Madison County Emergency Communications dispatchers have updated screening protocol so as to identify the potential for coronavirus presence before first responders arrive at the scene of an emergency.
- Madison County's first responders (firemen, law enforcement, dispatch, emergency medical/rescue squad, and emergency management and others) have had supplemental training, adjusted their operating procedures and reviewed and restocked their supplies of personal protective equipment and other materiel.
- Various County meetings have been cancelled and many have been moved to conference call formats; the potential for video conferencing is being researched.
- Supervisors in the various County offices have been encouraged to take a multi-month view in allowing and facilitating alternate work schedules, work from home and liberal use of personal leave while maintaining continuity of operations and the safety of the public and employees.

Closures

- To promote social distancing and to protect both citizens and County employees, most County offices are open but have restricted entry into offices to legitimate departmental business traffic. Patrons of County offices are being asked to conduct business by phone, fax and/or email when practical as a first option and via drop box or mail as a second option instead of in-person. Patrons are asked to make appointments for admittance to offices only if necessary.
- Non-essential and non-emergency court proceedings in the Madison County circuit court have been suspended until April 6, 2020.
- The Parks & Recreation Authority has suspended team practices and games until further notice.
- Madison County Public Schools, including school activities, are closed until March 27, 2020 by order of the Governor.